10-3-96

VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 49, Issue 4

Thursday, October 3, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

TAE welcomes students with GPAs of 3.2 or higher to join the Scholastic Honor Society. Day meetings are held every Mon. from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in CC202: evenings meetings are every Mon. from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in CC104, or stop by for an applicatioo and information. The deadline to join is Oct. 14.

TAE's October fund raisers: Sun. Oct. 5 is the rummage/bake sale/car wash from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be held in parking lot b on the corner of Fulton and Oxnard. Mon. Oct. 7 is the shelter drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun. Oct. 13 is the skateland from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 18140 Parthenia Street in Northridge. Admission is $4.50, skate rental is $2.50.

KVCM 830 AM radio station will be holding a Car Wash this Sat. Oct. 5, at noon. Donation is between $3.-5. Advanced tickets available in H 112 or at the KVCM booth.

The Counseling Department in Adm. Building Lobby is "here to help!" Free services include: Drop-in, short-session; General, in-depth, half-hour sessions; Career and Personal.Appointments may be scheduled by calling (818) 781-12oo ext. 246.

Lunchtime Workshop Services now being offered. Every Tue. from noon - 1 p.m., @ FL102. Upcoming workshops are: How to Select a Career, by Rick Brossman on Oct. 8 and Choice or Change: Selecting a Major, by Barbra on Oct.15.

ASU and MEChA is presenting a **Chicano/Latino History Month celebration** in Monarch Hall on Oct. 4 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Special perfomances will be made by Aztlan Underground, Teatro Por La Gente and Ollin. Admission is $2 or $1 for ASU members.

The Theather Arts department is presenting **"Harlequinade,"** a whimsical farce about a production of Remeo and Juliet gone away. Performances are Oct. 4 &5 at 8 p.m. in the Horseshoe Theater. Admission is $7 for the general public and $5 for students with ID.

Attention potential Spring 97 graduates. The **Graduation Petitition** deadline is Fri. Oct. 25 at 4:00 p.m. Petitions are available in the Graduation Office, Adm. 127.

Students who utilize **ACCESS Transportation** and who are interested in providing feedback regarding this service. Contact Yael Menashe (818) 677-2684 for more information.

Scholarship applications for the 1996-97 California Association of Post-Secondary Educators of the Disabled (CAPED) are now available. Scholarships must be received by Oct. 28. For more information call the DSP&S (818) 781-8542 or the TTD# (818) 781-8423 or stop by CC100 for an application.

The Career/Transfer Center, located in the Adm. Building lobby has scheduled University Reps to visit the Center. A **UCLA Rep, CSUN Rep, and USC Rep** are scheduled for the month of October by appointment only. Walk-ins available. See the Transfer office for specific dates.

A **"Personal Statement" Workshop** will be held Wed. Oct. 9 from noon to 1 p.m. in BS 101. Patrick Hunter, English Faculty Advisor will conduct the essay workshop to help students applying to transfer to a major university.

Change of Address forms located at the Information desk of Adm. Building lobby. The Adm. office is preparing for **Spring 97 registration** and all students who have moved recently should submit a change of address form.

Duke Debates Hicks at Cal State Northridge

By MONICA LID
and JOHN TARR

The highly anticipated and controversial debate between ex-Klansman David Duke and civil rights activist Joe Hicks turned into a circus at Cal State Northridge on Wednesday, Sept. 25 when demonstrations escalated into a riot drawing attention away from the debate.

An estimated 180 peace officers were on stand-by alert before the debate. There were 11 CSUN campus police officers, 15 campus police officers from other CSU's and approximately 30 volunteers and at least 100 LAPD officers including mounted police, according to Lt. Mark Hissong, CSUN assistant director of campus police.

Duke vs. Hicks captured the world's attention for a variety of reasons according to Dr. Cynthia Rawitch, a CSUN journalism professor. The world wanted to see how the debate turned out in accordance with the university's commitment to education. And how California decides the issue of affirmative action (referring to Proposition 209 on the Nov. 5 ballot) because other states follow the example set by California,

Affirmative action is a policy designed to correct the continued effects of discrimination.

Rawitch stated that 20 other states are currently considering a similar change of policy thereby increasing the importance of California's procedures and decisions.

As one student government member declared the objective of the debate, "Discussion is an exchange of knowledge, argument is an exchange of ignorance."

Each debater was given 15 minutes to present their position, 7 minutes for rebuttal followed by written questions, collected from the audience, for 30 minutes.

Duke's opening argument revolved around the theory of reverse-discrimination occurring as a direct result of affirmative action policies.

"If it's wrong to discriminate against a minority, then it is wrong to discriminate against a white person," proclaimed Duke. "Affirmative action is not about helping the poor and needy, it's about discrimination. We need the best qualified for the job"

Hicks responded by citing a study which claimed that between whites and blacks with identical qualification, the white was more likely to be hired.

"Whites have a 22 percent higher rate of being interviewed than blacks; a 45 percent higher rate of being offered a job; and a 17 percent higher pay rate," said Hicks.

Duke refuted Hicks' claims by citing a study which claimed that a black graduate student receives an average 24 percent higher rate of pay than a white graduate student.

Duke maintained that affirmative action discriminated against white people because educational institutions, corporations and government contract awards are required by law to admit, hire or assign contracts to less qualified individuals.

Hicks stated that 97 percent of Fortune 500 company CEO's are white, and 95 percent of white Fortune 500 CEO's say affirmative action benefited the workplace.

"Affirmative action have in fact done what it was supposed to do. Look at law enforcement alone where there is now nine times as many women." said Hicks.

Duke claimed the justification for reverse-discrimination do not exist because people today should not be held accountable for the sins of their forefathers. "The American people are being sold a collective guilt and are being made to pay a collective price."

Hicks cited a research study done on reverse-discrimination. "The Department of Labor looked over 100 reverse-discrimination cases out of 3000 and found that only six had merit." He took a stance saying, "Discrimination is discrimination and it should be pursued when found. No people should face exclusion or discrimination."

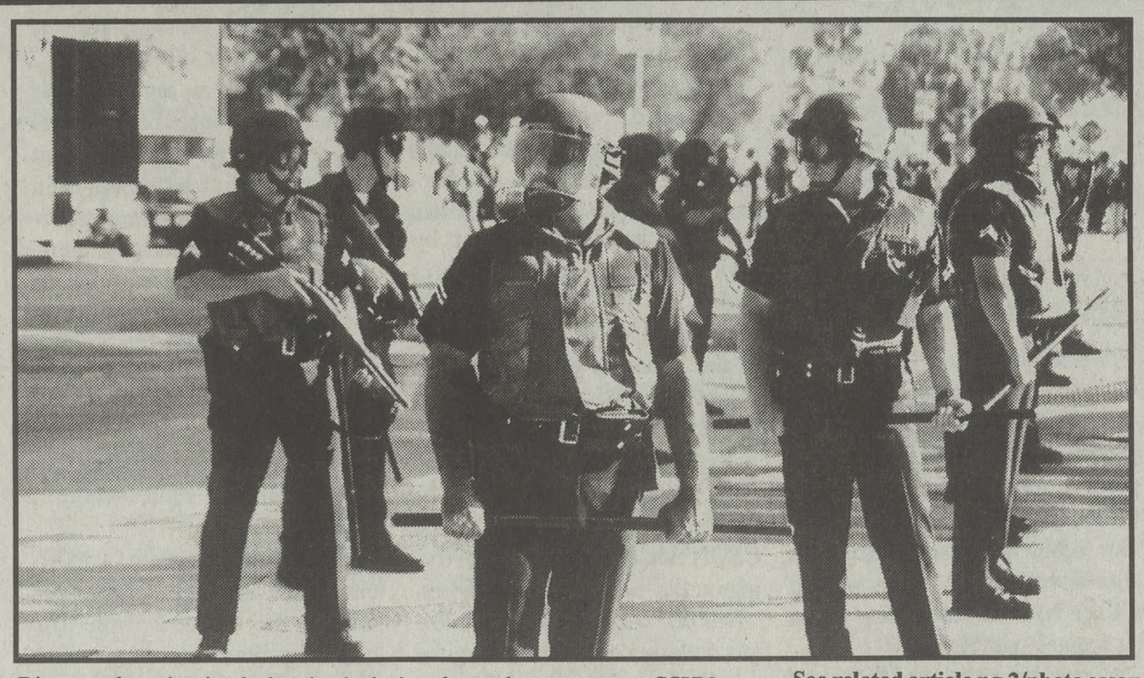
Affirmative action is necessary to open doors to ensure equal opportunity, according to Hicks. It was created to allow all people access to the education necessary to compete fairly.

In his closing argument Duke stated that the best qualified person should get the job, promotion or scholarship based on talent and merit, not because of race or sex.

"Bad ideas and dangerous ideologies and philosophies cannot be quarantined," said Hicks on why he agreed to debate Duke. "There is no guarantee that the American people will choose correctly, but make sure you go to the ballot box with a clear knowledge of what you vote on."

Some expected an animated argument between the two men, but except for one audience member being escorted out, and cries of liar when Duke denied being a white supremacist, the debate was surprisingly docile.

The meeting of minds ended with Duke and Hicks shaking hands and actually agreeing on one thing: discrimination is wrong.



Riot squads maintained a barricade during the student protests at CSUN.
Maria Ivey / Valley Star

See related article pg.2/photo essay pg. 4-5

Valley College Talks the Talk and Walks the Walk

By ADAM ADLER
STAFF WRITER

Of the 26,000 participants in the record breaking AIDS Walk last Sunday were the 42 students and faculty from the Valley College walking team. The team was one of the hundreds like it that collected donations for the walk. The walk is estimated to have raised $3.4 million dollars.

AIDS Walk is the annual fund raising event for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). The Project provides more than 30 free programs and services to AIDS patients in the Los Angeles area. A free food pantry, legal assistance, AIDS education and medical transportation are just some of the things APLA provides.

The walk was started 12 years ago. The current walk which was held Sept. 29 was the largest and the highest grossing in the event's history.

The walk started at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. The opening ceremony featured Jamie Lee Curtis as the master of ceremonies, Mayor Richard Riordan, Christina Applegate, Eartha Kit and Kathy Najimy.

The 10 kilometer course went down Melrose Ave. to Fairfax Blvd. then from Beverly Blvd. to Larchmount Ave. and then back up Melrose to Paramount Studios.

On almost every intersection there were APLA volunteers watching traffic and cheering on walkers. People too incapacitated to walk also posted themselves around the route to provide encouragement and thanks. Other supporters were local residents, shop owners and even a few drag queens. Several drivers that passed honked their horns and waved. Most of the walkers responded to the cheering in kind, with the Valley Team being some of the most vocal ones there.

Some of the walkers pressed on with the walk despite difficulties. Many of the walkers had canes or were in wheelchairs. One man

For those still wanting to make a donation but missed the walk, the Office of Student Services is still accepting donations on behalf of AIDS Walk. The office is also selling AIDS Walk T-shirts for $10 and giving the proceeds to AIDS Walk. Checks should be made out t o AWLA. Checks only please.

Agenda for Success

Part 2 of 2

By CARMEN PINTO
STAFF WRITER

Challenge three and four are the continuation from "Agenda for Success" part one.

The third challenge, "Community college education must adapt to the changing educational needs of Californians so as to be relevant and timely."

Both the agenda and the California Education Code agree, the community college's "primary" priority is in degree and certificate programs, such as lower-division arts/sciences and in vocational/occupational fields.

Other serious and important issues are the remedial and English as a Second Language courses. With the diversity among community college students, they continue to be an effective part of community college education.

Another important note the agenda makes, "The characteristics and experiences of entering students change. Their learning styles change, and, therefore, college instructional approaches must change."

Agenda, cont. on pg. 3

Welfare Reform: Who Pays When the Checks Stop?

By REBECCA FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

T.K. opened her cabinets. Inside were a couple of cans of soup, a box of stale crackers and a box of macaroni and cheese.

"This is what me and my kids have to eat, I have to wait for two weeks until my welfare check comes." She looks at her visitor and then continues.

"Do you think this is how I wanted my life to turn out? I have cried myself to sleep more than once wondering how I was going to buy my kid's clothes and wondering how I was going to make three slices of bread fill five stomachs." T.K. is a welfare recipient who asked that she be referred to as T.K. for this article.

T.K., the mother of five children is a single parent and lives with her children in a two bedroom apartment. The apartment is scarcely furnished. She has three boys and two girls and they all share the same room.

From T.K.'s perspective, society is unfair. She said, "Poverty is a fact of life, no one dreams that they will grow up to be poor."She walked over to the table and picked up a magazine. Pointed at the picture of an entertainer and said, "These are the people that everybody wants to be like."

According to T.K. society judges a person by their economic status. She feels that too many people take for granted the things they have been blessed with.

"Ever since I heard about the welfare bill passing, I have not had a good nights sleep. I know that people look at me as worthless, but I am a good mother."

T. K. was adamant in stating, "I don't want sympathy, but I don't want people looking down on me and my children just because we are on welfare."

T.K. had a job but stopped working when she was eight months pregnant with her first child. With no income and medical bills piling-up she applied for welfare. "I was embarrassed but I needed the help." She thought she would be able to return to work but taking care of her son became a full-time job.

When asked the question why she continued to have children with no means other than welfare to support her, T.K. just shook her head and replied. "My situation was crazy, their father was very abusive and if I didn't give in to him he'd beat me, unfortunately I don't believe in abortions."

The new Welfare Reform Act is replacing a 60-year-old law that guaranteed grants to states for poor families with children. The Act limits the length of time a family can receive welfare; two years consecutively with a maximum of five years of total aid.

T.K. said she understands why President Clinton signed the bill and she feels that they are doing the right thing, but she does not agree with the way it is being

Welfare, cont. pg. 3

Fire Breaks Out in Math Science Room 103

By CARMEN PINTO
STAFF WRITER

An electrical shortage in the Math Science Building created panic among students and the teacher.

Tuesday, Oct. 1 a portion of the middle ceiling light caught fire in room 103. Professor Glen Paget who was teaching Math 115 at the time of the incident, said that midway through the class, smoke started coming out of the light,

"I have never seen something like that happen before." said Paget.

then a "hissing" sound was heard before fire flared out sideways.

The incident caused the majority of students to run for safety toward the hallway. One student switched the lights off, ending the fire, but when the light was switched on again, the fire continued.

Campus Police Officer Gosenson arrived at the scene and said the students "were all outside the building." Because of the smell and the dust, students were relocated to a different room. An electrician took care of the equipment failure that caused the electrical damage.

According to Paget, nobody was hurt and the math class was able to resume. Paget agrees that the fire may have started due to an electrical short. He also added, "I've never seen something like that happen before."

Crossing the Thin Blue Line

Challenging the procedures and use of force by the LAPD riot squad during the CSUN riots.

By JOHN TARR
STAFF WRITER

"What did he do? What did he do to deserve to get hit by a stick?" yelled Jeffrey Vasile to mounted police officers during the CSUN riots on Wednesday, Sept. 25 following the affirmative action debate between David Duke and Joe Hicks. "Cops would rather beat someone than listen to them," said Vasile.

Supposedly triggered by one of a variety of rumored protester infractions, police opened fire on demonstrators with rubber bullets and pepper spray without notice or warning.

With the precision of a military deployment, officers boxed three sides of the crowd with the assistance of mounted police who created a formidable barrier of horse flesh and cudgel wielding cops.

Demonstrators were confused by police efforts to maintain control of the situation. Always without warning, the officers would march students backward and then stop as suddenly as they started, always remaining silent when asked, "why?"

Won't a cat fight if it is cornered by a dog? What then will emotionally charged students do when harassed, arrested and shot at by civil servants pledged "to protect and to serve?" It was inevitable that students would react violently to the situation which appeared from the dust of combat boots and riveted horse shoes.

Remember Tianemen Square?

Luckily there were no deaths or serious injuries as a result of the CSUN riot, but not for lack of trying on the part of police officers.

It is bad enough that a tumultuous situation erupted causing the mind to be split between fear, curiosity and vehement beliefs. Add to that storm-troopers, medieval cops with politically correct firearms and visor-blinded horses (which at any moment could rear-up creating a puddle of silly putty brains where one second before a student had stood,) and you have a riot.

Sure, the police didn't overreact. They handled the situation efficiently and effectively while exercising an appropriate amount of decorum, according to LAPD Police Chief "Slick" Willie Williams. Just like David Duke was never a member of the KKK.

It only took an anarchist and hypocritical group called BAMN (By All Means Necessary) from northern California to spark off a fierce and tense four-hour stand-off between police and protesters. CSUN students were wise to BAMN's intentions and could easily have handled the conflict themselves. CSUN demonstrated that when BAMN protested the next day. BAMN was driven off by CSUN students without incident (and without a police presence.)

It is obvious that the CSUN riots would not have happened if not for the extreme force and large numbers of cops present. The reaction of police officers to the dazed confusion of students was completely outside the boundaries of professional law enforcement.

With truncheon cocked back, prepared to descend on the unsuspecting skull of an art student, the cop pauses and aims for the student's shoulder instead. Why the change of heart?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SENDING IN AN ARMORED COLUMN AND AIR SUPPORT TO KEEP THE PEACE.
SERVES HUSSEIN RIGHT!
I'M TALKIN' ABOUT CSUN
DAVID DUKE TO ATTEND DEBATE
037

From the corner of his eye, the cop caught a reflective glimpse of a camera lens manned by a photographer sporting a green LAPD press pass patiently waiting for his Pulitzer prize-winning photo.

Is there a question of police brutality and misconduct? No. The answer is evident and easily seen in the visage of a bloodied student in a Twinkies T-shirt surrounded by "Slick Willie's" imperial storm-troopers. (Re: L.A. Times photo Sept. 26, 1996 pg. B1.)

There was no interference from police on the second day of protests. There were no tin-plated, blue-painted toy soldiers with one thought on their minds. "C'mere. Yeah, you with the backpack. Step a little closer and give me a reason to turn your head into a canoe."

The cops wanted it to escalate. You could see it in their eyes. They were waiting for it and hoping for it, and their wish came true.

Don't be fooled for a second into thinking those macho, testosterone-infested, self-righteous, above-the-law cops didn't provide the spark that lit the protester's kindling. Take, for example, the massive over-deployment of riot squads, mounted officers and helicopters when thinking about the LAPD's show of force.

This is how I imagine the pep-talk before the deployment: a blue bus transporting the riot squads pulls into the parking lot with a swaggering sergeant. "Men, and women (thanks to affirmative action), this could turn into a dangerous situation quite quickly. We don't expect anything to happen but use force if you feel threatened," he says.

If *who* feels threatened? Who had the guns? the billy clubs? the pepper spray? the horses? the tactical armor? the helicopters? the back-up?

By all means, feel threatened by backpack-toting, espresso-drinking undergraduates. And by all means, please, chase the students around the campus, hit them with clubs, spray them with pepper spray and shoot rubber bullets at them.

Contributing writer **Robert James Patterson**.

Secession May Still Succeed

By LEO SMITH
STAFF WRITER

In the not so distant future the San Fernando Valley may be mentioned alongside such cities as Detroit, New York and Los Angeles as a major metropolis. The effort is already underway to make this a reality, and it is gaining more support every day from Valley residents.

The march toward secession is being spearheaded by Granada Hills Assemblywoman Paula Boland (Rep.). In the past, Boland has successfully ridden a secession bill through the Republican controlled Assembly, although it was killed when it reached the Democratic controlled Senate. That defeat, however, has only strengthened Boland's resolve as well as those of like mind.

The charge made by secessionists is a simple one, they are tired of watching tax dollars collected locally being spent everywhere except locally. The goal is also simple, sever the San Fernando Valley from Los Angeles and become an autonomous city.

Proponents feel that the money desperately needed in the San Fernando Valley is being mismanaged by politicians some twenty miles away. Common complaints range from lack of money for local schools, decrepit sewer systems, ill kept streets and not enough police.

Separatists see the move as a necessary step to maintain the quality of the suburban lifestyle that has become synonymous with that of Valley residents. On their side is none other than Governor Pete Wilson (Rep.) who has hinted that he would sign the bill should it ever grace his desk.

Secession is not without its detractors, however. Opponents of the idea see it as opening the floodgate for a myriad of other such moves. They imagine Los Angeles splintering when South Central, Venice, Pacific Palisades, etc. follow the Valley's lead and declare their own secession intentions.

Some voice the concern that this is a race motivated issue. They note the racial make-up of the Valley is predominantly white, whereas L.A. is predominantly black. Opponents also claim Valley residents can't stand seeing their tax dollars going to an area such as Compton when Granada Hills needs to charter another espresso shop.

Mayor of Los Angeles Richard Riordan (Rep.) opposes the split but supports Valley residents' right to vote on the issue.

Tom Hayden (Dem.) of the State Senate also opposes the split but is instead offering an alternative. He is proposing to shift part of the power base from downtown L.A. to the Valley in order to appease those separatists who feel their elected officials are ignoring them.

Secession from Los Angeles would put Valley girls and boys in charge of their city's destiny. No longer will the term Los Angelinos be used. What's the point, there's no pro football in L.A. anyway.

SIR, WILL YOU PLEASE REFRAIN FROM REFERING TO THIS SECCESSION HEARING AS THE "ESCAPE FROM L.A." !!!
CALL ME SNAKE.
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL
037 '96

Fight Against Domestic Violence

By MONICA LID
STAFF WRITER

A bruised cheek and a busted eye, ripped clothes and innocence gone forever. Then finally one day you hear the sound of sirens, for the last time. Another woman has lost her life. We have all seen violence, and we despise it, but still we do not seem to realize the extent of violent crimes until it happens to somebody we care about.

On Saturday, September 28, women gathered at more than 400 sites across the nation as a follow-up to the fourth world conference on women in Beijing last autumn. It was a day where, young people, especially college students, were supposed to gather to discuss issues such as health care, opportunity and discrimination, welfare and violence against women.

But where were the students?

The majority attending the conference site at Valley College were women, and although a few actually happened to be college students, these were for the most part women who had volunteered their services to help make this day a success.

In the eyes of these women, Saturday's venue might have seemed like a success, but for me, a woman and a student, I have to claim otherwise. Because how can I, even for a moment, consider a close to no-show of college students a success, especially when I take certain statistics into consideration. Numbers from the U.S. Department of Justice show that approximately 95 percent of the victims of domestic violence are women, and according to the March of Dimes Birth Defect Foundation, 3 to 4 million American women, of all races, are battered each year. Another scary truth is the fact that AIDS is now the primary cause of death among American females between the ages of 15 and 40.

Every day women across America are being struck, kicked and sexually abused. Therefore, a gathering of so few interested individuals is far away from a success.

Young women have to take a stand, set the limits for what they allow to happen to their person, their body. We don't have to become macho chicks, but it won't help much to act as a princess in distress either. Whether we already are mothers or are planning to one day become one, we have to take upon ourselves the responsibility to get educated and to pass the knowledge on to our children.

According to Wynn Helms, Educator and Counselor with Friends of the Family, "We have to remember that most batterers learned violent behavior growing up in an abusive family." Sexual, physical and mental abuse needs to be stopped, and it is within our family where the education needs to start.

Women out there, and even here at Valley College, live in abusive situations, and there are probably also men here who, at one point or another, have struck a female. They are the ones who would have benefited greatly from the conference, but they were the people who stayed at home. By being a batterer, men increase the belief that power and control are achieved by violence, myths which need to be reversed immediately. When it comes down to it, no one really wants to be discriminated against, and no one should according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states, "All human beings are born free and equal. No one shall be subject to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Clearly this means that no one has the right to lay a hand on us.

If we offer thought to the subject, everyone will realize that one can personally help stop domestic violence an other crimes against women, as long as we are aware and enable ourselves to identify red flags, such as physical harm and/or depression among people around us. Let's not be ignorant and close our eyes to reality because women are being killed at the hands of the people who supposedly love them.

In Beijing in 1995, despite efforts by the Chinese government to censor the UN Conference, more than 17,000 delegates came together to ensure the rights and safety of women world-wide. In the tradition of the UN Conferences on Women, the delegates in Beijing agreed on an ending statement. A document expressing their wish to let the world know once and for all that "women have the right to decide freely on all matters related to their sexuality. And that any domestic battering and sexual harassment are all violations of human rights." Now, a year later, it is up to us the women of the 90s to set boundaries and protect our mothers, sisters, and daughters.

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Standing in the Shadows

By LEO SMITH
STAFF WRITER

"Last Man Standing," a remake of Japanese director Akira Kurisawa's classic "Yojimbo," stars Bruce Willis as John Smith, a gun for hire who happens upon a small border town called Jericho. Jericho just happens to be the place which links the USA to Mexican alcohol.

It is the 1930s; prohibition is the law but America still wants to party. The trouble is that two Chicago gangs, one Irish and the other Italian, are both competing for booze rights. As the movie begins they are in an uncomfortable truce with one another. Enter Willis' gun-toting drifter to stir things up and you have yourself a movie.

The problem is, it's not a very good one.

The most glaring problem with "Standing" was that it was boring; an unfavorable quality for a movie to have. For a film touted as a violent drama, the sporadic moments of action were too widely spaced and drained of any and all emotion. I felt as sorry for the victims as I would for clay pigeons. Although the scenes of gunplay were flawlessly choreographed, they looked tired and slow next to the style they were obviously trying to emulate; that being the over-the-top blood baths of director John Woo ("Broken Arrow") who pulls off massacres in style.

What passed for drama in-between the action was equally as uncompelling and tedious to listen to as the violence was to watch. Willis' character ruins the suspense and intrigue with an irritating narration that leaves nothing to the imagination. He lets his every treacherous move to pit one gang against the other and one must wonder why no one else in the movie sees this happening.

Even more lubricious is his motivation for the mayhem. Not for money but for a woman whom he, or the viewer, barely knows. The writers expect it to be believed that this hard-boiled bad-ass would sacrifice his self-centered life for a woman. This isn't redemption. In his case it's stupidity.

The movie's acting is highlighted by two performances, those of Willis and Christopher Walken. Willis is quite good as the self-described man without a conscience, the perfect quality for an anti-hero to have. Willis deftly portrays Smith's coolly calculating demeanor.

Walken is excellent as the sociopathic Hinckey, the only one who sees through Smith's little scheme. And, as usual, Walken is one scary mofo.

Now the big question: is "Last Man Standing," worth seeing?

To paraphrase Willis' character, "It'll hurt if you do."

On the worst to first scale of Heinous, Bogus, Excellent and Outstanding

"Last Man Standing" scores: Bogus

Welfare, cont. from pg. 1

done. "Why can't they check out each family and see which ones really need the help and continue to aid them, and stop the ones that are getting it illegally?"

There is a long silence before T.K. continues, fighting to remain composed she continued. "I use the money to take care of my kids and pay my bills. We don't have the luxury of cable and I don't have enough money to take my kids on outings, but I'm not down about it because there are plenty of people that are homeless and worse off."

She took a deep breath and continued, "But the people out there, all they see is the negative side. You can see it in their faces when you cash your check or use food stamps."

Welfare has been a controversial topic for many years. According to Gail Thompson, a welfare office supervisor in the Canoga Park office, people look at welfare recipients as a burden to society because so many people abuse the system, and fraudulently receive benefits. This makes it hard on the ones that really need the help.

Thompson said, "I have been working with these women for 12 years, I have seen many different types of cases, for the most part they legitimately need help, but there is no excuse that allows for abuse of the system." She also said that while she understands what these women are going through, they need to be more responsible for their lives.

"Why do women continue to have children when they can not provide for the one they already have?" asked Thompson.

"Where are the fathers of these children? Why aren't they paying child support? Who is going to be held accountable for the well being of a child born into poverty?"

Those questions, Thompson said, make up the puzzle that the government is trying to solve.

"By revising the Welfare Law that currently exists, the government is trying to force families to take the responsibilities for their children. It is a shame that so many people are caught up in their own selfish ambitions they don't stop to think about the child who goes hungry."

According to Thompson the need for welfare reform is predicated on the number of families receiving welfare fraudulently, the continual rise in the number of dependents of families already receiving welfare and the length of time the families have been receiving aid.

Thompson said cases like T.K.'s where the mother is being denied work because of obesity is not that uncommon. "This is a woman trying to change her life and having difficulty in finding a job."

Thompson also said that there are other mitigating circumstances limiting the recipients when it comes to finding jobs. The new reform act encourages businesses to hire welfare recipients yet there is no guarantee they will get jobs.

T.K. remains hopeful that the welfare system will find a way to continue to aid the families that need it, or at least help them find jobs.

She said, "I wouldn't worry so much if it was just me, but I have two children with medical problems and they need constant care. How am I going to pay for their hospital bills?"

Agenda, cont from pg. 1

Challenge number four, "The human and physical infrastructure of community colleges must be enhanced, better organized, and better utilized."

This section calls for an impoved resource management team.

For example, three objectives offered by the Board in its restructuring attempt are using expertise and resources that exist within the system for accomplishing system wide work, sharing staff with local colleges and offering competitive staff compensation.

A diversity in staff hiring, according to the agenda, is also advised. The Board suggested an affirmative action employment program for community colleges with four crucial components.

The four components are: nondiscrimination, equal employment opportunity, diversity, and corrective action (if any practices are deemed unconstitutional). No doubt this is debatable among the Board and elsewhere.

The research of the Agenda was conducted by staff of the Chancellor's Office Research and Analysis and Development Division.

The point in writing the Agenda was to review California's recent experience an i possible future for a number of factors that impact how California Community Colleges are valued and operated.

"First Wives," a Hilarious Success

By REBECCA FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

How many women does it take to serve-up a dish of laughs? Three. A blonde, a brunette and a red-head. Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler are three powerhouse comediennes that toss up a delightfully funny mess in the grown-up comedy "The First Wives Club."

Unlike the typical male bashing or female bashing plots of Hollywood, this movie has heart and soul. The catty one-liners, coupled with the camaraderie the actresses share lends support to a simplistic plot resulting in an entertaining movie.

In the 1960s four women are bound together by friendship and matching pearls presented as a graduation gift from their sorority sister, Cynthia Swann played by Stockard Channing. After graduating they lose contact with one another. The suicide of Swann brings them back together.

It is at the funeral of Swann that Brenda Cushman (Midler) Elise Atchison (Hawn) and Annie Paradise (Keaton) are reunited. During lunch they discuss their lives and find that the three of them are currently going through the same thing Swann committed suicide over, a divorce.

Elise is a washed-up actress cast aside because of her age. Keeping with showbiz tradition she consoles herself with booze. Elise is your typical bleached blonde divorcee, with more cuts, tucks and sucks than the average reconstructed genre. Hawn brings sophistication, wit and charm to a character ordinarily seen as ditzy.

Where opposites attract, Midler's character is the drawing force pushing both Elise and Annie to the edge of realization. Brenda is a shabbily dressed, chocolate-eating, smart-mouth hell-bent on revenge.

Dealing with a weight problem, and unable to accept her husband leaving her for a younger woman, Brenda's bitterness propels her on a journey for justice. Her attitude is can't beat them, join them. Midler is a gem in the rough and the antagonist that provides just enough controversy to keep the story line on the level.

Wives Club certainly would not be the same without Keaton's character. Annie is the shy, level headed one in denial about her status with her husband until she finds out he is cheating on her with their marriage counselor. She has a dominating mother and a lesbian daughter, but this does not phase her.

Once she realizes her relationship with her husband is doomed she is ready to start fighting back. The constant bickering between Brenda and Elise finally drives Annie to the breaking point and she completely loses all self confidence.

After the blow up between the divorcees they all realize the battle is not just about revenge against their husbands but rather giving women from all walks of life a place to seek help and refuge in the time of crisis so they won't end up like Swann, dead of loneliness.

The First Wives Club is an ensemble film, but the ability of the three female leads is the driving wind allowing it to sail. This movie scores two thumbs up.

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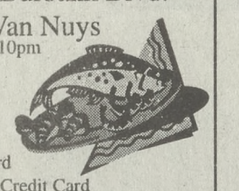
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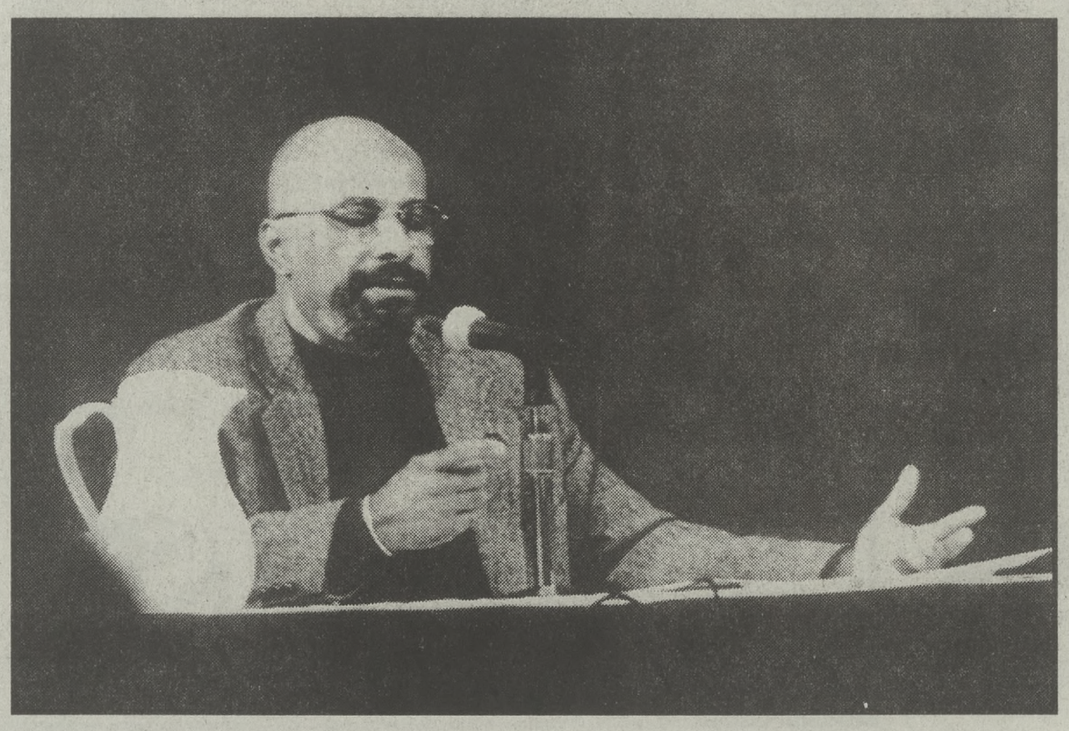
Spoken and soon forgotten: the debate between Duke and Hicks is lost amid a sea of controversy and overshadowed by riots.



Photos clockwise from top:

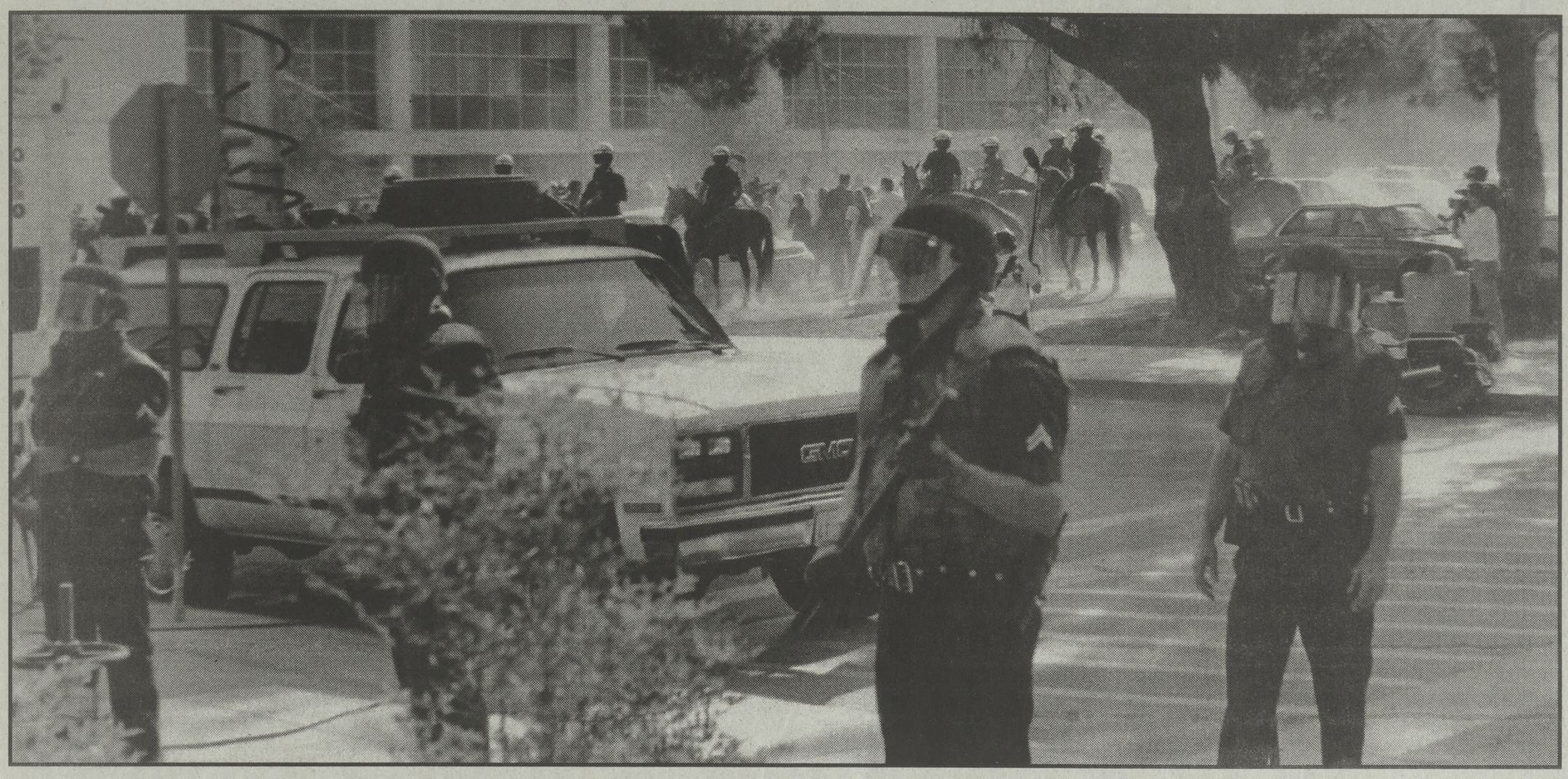
The line was drawn between student demonstrators and LAPD riot squads in the streets at CSUN. The stand-off lasted for almost three hours before crowds finally began dispersing.

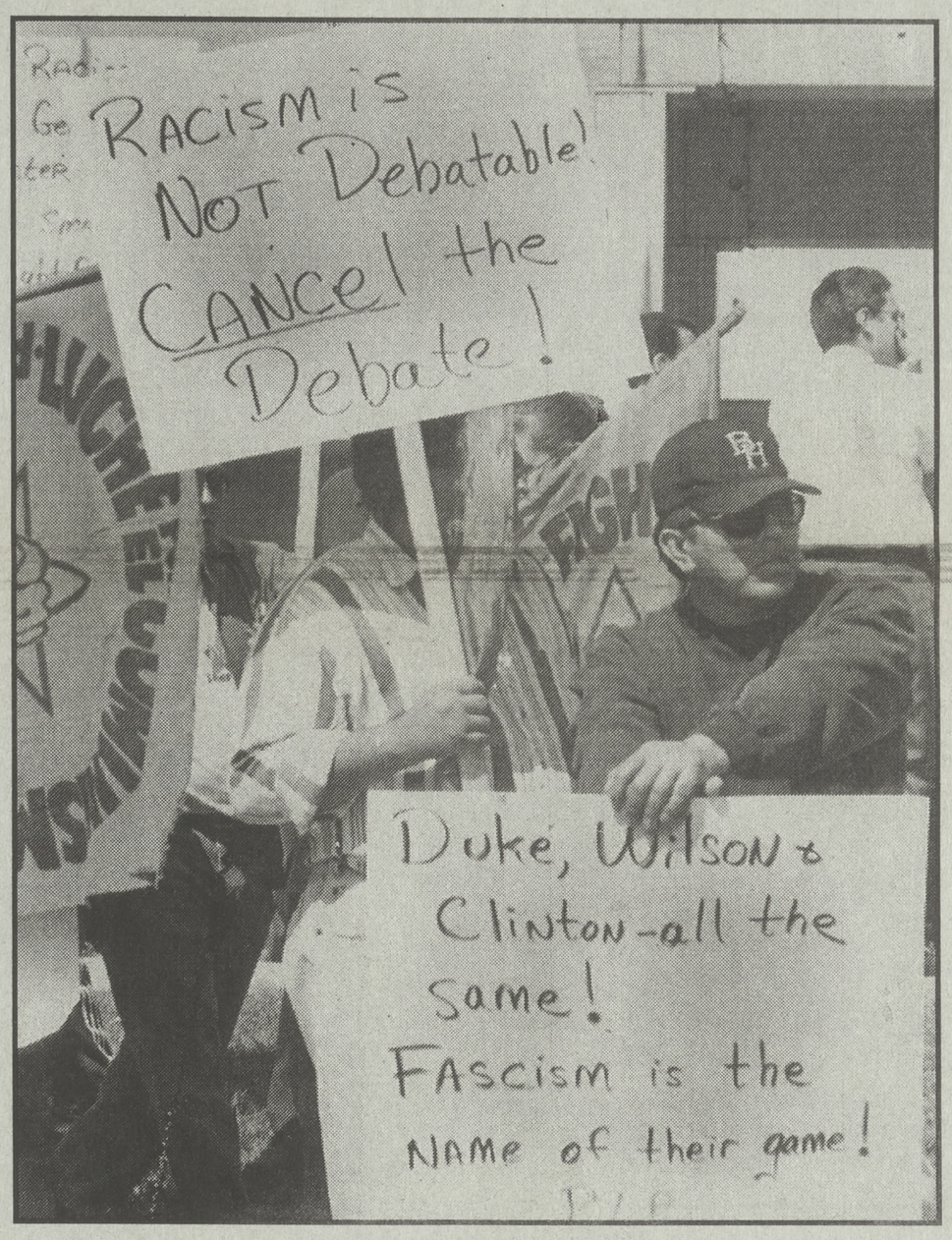
Six demonstrators were arrested altogether, though only one was a CSUN student. A group from northern California called BAMN (By All Means Necessary) had vowed to stop the debate.

"Discrimination exists- it is a part of American life today. It will not just shrivel up and go away."
- Joe Hicks

Weeks before the debate, CSUN's Associated Students Union had been questioned regarding their decision to pay Duke $4,000 and Hicks only $1,000. Before Duke took the stage, AS President Vladimir Cerna announced that both candidates would be paid $4,000.

Text by Monica Lid and John Tarr. Photos by Maria Ivey, Monica Lid and John Tarr





Photos clockwise from top:

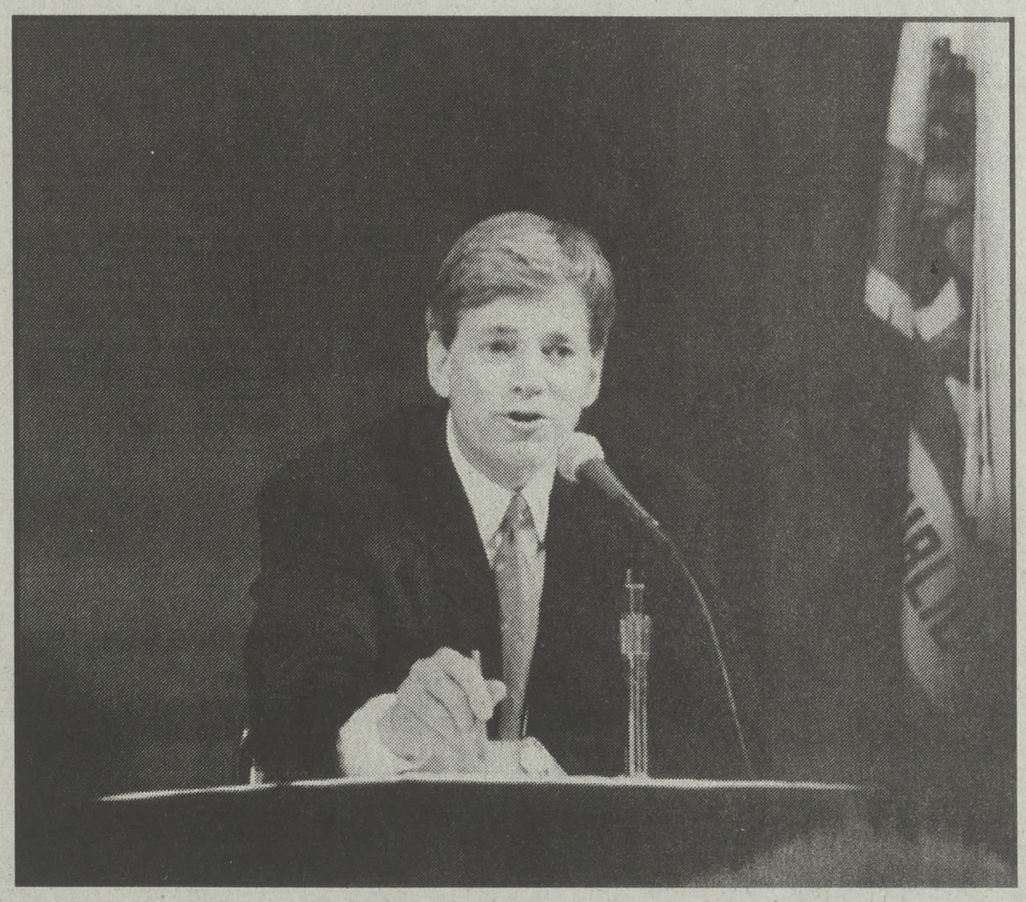
An estimated 180 peace officers were on standby alert before the debate. There were 11 CSUN campus police officers, 15 campus police officers from other CSU's and approximately 30 volunteers and at least 100 LAPD officers including mounted police, according to Lt. Mark Hissong, CSUN assistant director of campus police.

Demonstrators weilding signs protesting Duke's appearance at the debate gathered in the CSUN Associated Students quad before the debate. There were concentrated incidents of violence between protesters.

"I'm not ashamed to say I am proud of my heritage and that I will fight for the rights of my children." --David Duke.

Several cries of "liar" were shouted at the end of the debate when Duke denied accusations of being a white supremacist.

Private and public political organizations rallied in the Assoc. Students quad protesting Proposition 209, concerning affirmative action (now on the November ballot).



Monarch Football: Close Calls, Heartbreaks and Comebacks

Game 1: Monarchs Eclipse West L.A. 35-34

In a game which saw the Monarchs play catch-up ball from the first quarter, the team finally pulled ahead for keeps in the fourth, edging the West Los Angeles Oilers 35-34.

Credit defensive back Courtney Blunt with a key interception in the end zone in the waning moments of the game to stall an Oiler charge and secure the victory for the Monarchs.

Quarterback Dave Lins, in his debut at the helm, completed 21 of 34 passes for 302 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Lins used four receivers in the game, finding Eric Ruhle six times for 121 yards and two touchdowns, Joey Orlando (6 for 79), Leaford Hackett (5 for 35) and Marcus Harvey (4 for 67).

Harvey received his share of playing time, working as the sole running back and carrying 18 times for 42 yards, as well as returning punts (2 for 45) and kickoffs (1 for 17).

On defense, Brian Henderson gathered up a fumble, returning it three yards for the Monarchs first score.

Game 2: Monarchs Fall to Santa Barbara 32-26

A game-ending Vaquero touchdown sealed a victory for Santa Barbara as the Monarchs lost 32-26 at La Playa Stadium. The loss is the first for the Monarchs to a northern division team since losing to L.A. Harbor in October of 1992.

Starting quarterback Dave Lins completed 15 of 23 passes for 183 yards before giving way to freshman Tom Racius (11 for 17, 142 yards). Their primary receiver, Joey Orlando, reeled in nine passes for 81 yards. He was followed by Leaford Hackett (6 for 70), and then Eric Ruhle (5 for 110, two touchdowns).

The ground game was led by Marcus Harvey, with 94 yards in 23 carries.

The game began on a sour note for the Monarchs as a safety in the first minute and a half of play left them down 2-0. However, the team quickly recovered to go ahead 6-2 on a 44-yard pass play from Lins to Ruhle. Following a pair of Santa Barbara field goals, Valley responded with their own, a 34-yarder by Jose Cortez that sent the team to half-time trailing 12-9.

In the third quarter, the Monarchs surged ahead on a 4-yard TD run by Harvey, stretching the lead in the opening moments of the fourth quarter on a 22-yard touchdown pass to Ruhle. Following a Vaquero score, Matt Kohl gave the Monarchs another three points, splitting the uprights on a 15-yard kick.

However, two Vaquero touchdowns in the final minute of the game proved disastrous for the Monarchs, the final score coming on a 55-yard "Hail Mary" completion with no time left on the clock.

Game 3: Deja Vu! Monarchs Win in Bakersfield 24-14

Twenty-one unanswered points in the fourth quarter pushed the Monarchs past Bakersfield Friday, giving the team their second straight victory in as many years at Memorial Stadium before a crowd of 5,106.

Special teams added spice to a game which saw Valley /College successfully execute an onside kick, two fake punts and a 60-yard punt return.

Little scoring took place in the first three quarters, as the Renegades built a 14-3 lead. Early in the fourth, Marcus Harvey sent a spark which ignited the team, returning a punt 60 yards for a touchdown. Moments later, quarterback Dave Lins found Eric Ruhle in the end zone to complete the two point conversion, moving the team within three points, 14-11 .

Less than four minutes later, Lins would find Ruhle again, this time on an 11-yard strike to give the Monarchs the go-ahead score. Finally, with less than three minutes remaining, the battery of Lins and Ruhle connected again, and as Matt Kohl's kick split the uprights, the Monarchs extended their lead to 24-14.

Jerry Melikyan's fumble recovery in the waning moments sealed the victory for the Monarchs, sending their conference record to 2-1.

The renegades proved highly susceptible to the Monarch's special team unit, thanks in a big way to the efforts of Eric Carpenter.

In the second quarter, Valley lined up in punt formation, but snapped the ball to Carpenter. He in turn fired a shot to Tyler Fenwick for a 25-yard gain.

In the fourth quarter, the Monarchs used the same ploy again. This time, while punter Jose Cortez put on a meritorious acting performace pretending to chase the ball following a high snap, Carpenter carried to the left side, picking up 27 yards.

Carpenter came to the fore a third time when he recovered the ball on an onside kick, setting up a Monarch score.

Lins outing proved successful as he completed 27 of 47 passing attempts for 302 yardsa (57.4%) and two touchdowns. His primary reciever was Ruhle, who grabbed nine passes for 144 yards, a pair of touchdowns and the two point conversion.

The defense, which held Bakersfield scoreless in the second half, was led in part by Edgar Nava who amassed eight tackles, as did Jeff Macrea, who also had eight.

Game 4 Preview: Monarchs' Home Opener to Pit Glendale Against Valley

Valley College welcomes the Glendale Vaqueros to Monarch Stadium for this year's home opener, Saturday, October 5, for a 7:00 p.m. game.

Head coach John Cicuto, now in his eighth year as the team's leader (41-32-2) brings a team which is well-noted for its running game, thanks to sophomore running backs Ramone Archie (66 carries, 389 yards) and Rahsaan Harrison (41/319 yards). Currently, the two are the number two and three leading rushers in the Western State Conference behind West Los Angeles' Rommell Knutt (74/545 yards).

In their second game (a loss to West L.A. 37-23), Archie managed to carry for 116 yards and last week against Harbor picked up 90 yards while Harrison compiled 147 (which included a 65-yard touchdown run).

At the Vaqueros' controls will be quarterback Aryn Hart. Last year's starter (145 for 285, 50.9%), Hart was selected to the Honorable Mention WSC squad. Against Harbor, he threw for 150 yards in the 29-20 victory. Hart, however, has not had much success with the aerial attack, with only 32 completions in 73 attempts (43.8%) for 448 yards.

When he does decide to throw, his two primary targets will be Patrick Fields (15 receptions, 150 yards), and Scott Boldvich (14/244 yards).

Another notable player is cornerback Jay Register, an All-State selection in 1995. Register can be trouble on kickoff returns as he proved last week, returning the ball 94 yards for a touchdown. His average return last season was 25.9 yards. This season, he's boosted it to a whopping 35.3 to lead the WSC.

What can stop the 10 returning starters from wreaking havoc on the Monarch defense? Turnovers, for one. The team gave up the ball four times in the loss to West Los Angeles.

Finally, the Vaqueros are on a par with any other WSC team when it comes to stopping the rush, having given up only 325 yards in three games. It's against the pass that Glendale will have to bone up—to date they've surrendered 656 yards, a dangerous figure when posted against the dynamic Monarch aerial attack which is averaging 318 yards per game.

Courtesy of Dale Beck, Monarch football press relations.

Valley Sunk by Cerritos, 10-11

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The 11th game of the season was lost to Cerritos 10 to 11 when Valley played a wet and wild game of water polo. Valley did not concede the game without a fight, but they finished limping.

A home game lasting for about one and a half hours ending with Justin King, a sophomore at Valley and one of the best players according to coach Bill Krauss, scoring three points for his team.

"We should have won the game," said Krauss, "Our scoring wasn't as good as it should have been but we had a great offense, and they played hard and intense."

The game started with a score by Haik Topadzhikyan, a Valley goalie, who scored another goal in the third quarter. Valley was leading 2 to 0 during the first quarter. At the beginning of the second quarter both King and Theo Smits-van Oyen scored goals.

They lost their lead which left them 4 to 4 until the third quarter. Steve Taylor scored one point during the fourth quarter tying the game 8 to 8, and scored another point at the end of the game. By the end of the fourth quarter Cerritos was winning 10-9.

Hamlet Azarian, a freshman at Valley, said that swimming was their weakness and they are practicing that now. He said that team effort and working together as a team is their strength.

"This is the rebuilding season," said Peter Angelouv, a sophomore. "Most of us are freshmen and I feel that next year we will do much better."

The next water polo game is a Citrus Tourney October 4-5 at Citrus.

Valley College AIDS Walkers

AIDS- Cont. from pg.1

who suffers from Cerebral Palsy did the entire walk while balancing on two crutches.

Despite all the positive attention, there were some detractors present. At the beginning of the route, there were several protesters that were contesting the walk on religious grounds. While the walkers filed past they held up signs and spoke out about punishments from God. One of the Valley team members, John Seman, responded by yelling, "Stop the ignorance."

Not all religious sentiment at the walk was negative. Quite a few of the walking teams were religious organizations, including Catholic churches. A large group of people wore shirts depicting a street sign that said, "No More Homophobic Religion."

A few orthodox Jews that lived in the area were performing a Lulav blessing with the walkers, one of the traditional Succot blessings involving a shaft of palm fronds and other branches used to pay respect to nature.

Valley team members were enthusiastic about the event. Seman was walking for the first time and even brought along his 12-year-old brother in law Chad Whitaker. Seman had high expectations at the beginning and kept them throughout. "There was this guy standing on the edge of the street and he had a sign that said 'I have AIDS, thank you walkers." That was very emotional," he said.

Daniel Matas, commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs in ASU, also did the walk for the first time. He was surprised by the large turnout for the event but was very happy with how it turned out. He said that he saw, "A lot of togetherness, you could feel the togetherness as you walked."

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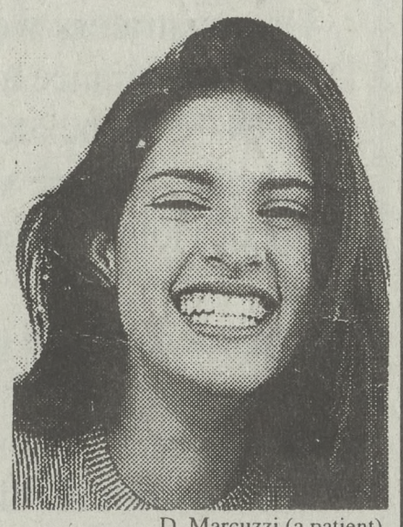
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